actual utilisation has been estimated at about 8.35 million hectares.

(b) Under utilisation of irrigation potential is not attributable to persistent river water disputes between the States as the projects are implemented only after they are techno-economically cleared after resolving inter-state matters.

(c) Government have already enacted Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 to provide for the adjudication of disputes relating to waters of Inter-state rivers and river valleys. Besides a Standing Committee on Inter-State Issues in Water Resources with Members drawn from the National Water Resources Council has been constituted in April, 1990 under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources to consider among other things the ways and means of resolving some of these water disputes on a mutually agreed basis.

Officers to International Conferences

*350. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) how many officers were sent abroad to participate in the International Conferences/Workshops/Meetings during the current year, with their names and designations;

(b) what is the expenditure incurred on them;

(c) what they have done in the interest of their work pursuant to attending these conferences; and

(d) what was the criterion for their selection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b) The following officers were sent Abroad to participate in International Conferences/Work Shops Meetings during the current Calendar year:

Statement

Sl.No.	Name	Designation	Place of Visit/ duration	Purpose	Estimate Approved Expend.
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Shri S.K. Tripathi	Joint Secretary	Amsterdam (Netherland) January 27-29, 1993	To attend the meeting of Common Fund for commodities	Rs. 73401/-
2	Shri Tejendra Khanna	Secretary	Rome (Italy) March 29 *April 1st 1993	To attend the 18th Session of Committee on World Food Security of the FAO	Rs. 53596/-
3	Shri Kalp Nath Rai Shri K.K. Sharma Shri S.K. Tripathi	MOF APS to MOF Joint Secretary	London (U.K.) May 18-21, 1993	To attend the Council Session of International Sugar Orgn.	Rs. 228445/*
4	Shri Tejendra Khanna	Secretary	London (U.K.) June 21-23, 1993	To attend the 119th Session of International Wheat Council	Rs. 74489.75

(*Excluding Hotel Charges)

(c) and (d) India is a member of International Organisations like the International Sugar Organisation, International Wheat Council, etc. Meetings of the members of these organisations are called periodically and India as a member is also invited. Depending on the nature of the issues coming up before the meetings and the importance of those issues from India's point of view participation at the meetings and the level of participation are decided. Participation at these meetings/conferences provides the participants with exposure to the global scenario, from the point of view of technology, level of production, prices and future trends, marketing etc. in respect of foodgrains, sugar etc. which are beneficial to the country in framing policies, exports/imports etc.

संसद सदस्यों से प्राप्त पत्रों पर की गई कार्यवाही

*351. **श्री गोपाल सिंह जी० सोलंकी:** क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) उन्हें गत छः महीनों के दौरान संसद सदस्यों से कितने पत्र/अभ्यावेदन/ज्ञापन प्राप्त हुए ;

(ख) कितने मामलों में पत्र प्राप्त होने के पन्द्रह दिनों के भीतर पावती भेजी गई और कितने मामलों में अभी तक अंतिम उत्तर नहीं भेजा गया है ;

(ग) पत्र प्राप्त होने से पन्द्रह दिन के भीतर पावती और तीन महीनों के भीतर अंतिम उत्तर न भेजने के क्या कारण हैं ; और

(घ) पावती और अंतिम उत्तर में विलंब करने तथा ऐसे पत्रों का बिलकुल भी उत्तर न दिए जाने और संसद सदस्यों को गुमराह किए जाने के आधार पर कितने अधिकारियों को दोषी पाया गया है और उनके विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ?

कृषि मंत्री (श्री बलराम जाखड़): (क) पिछले छह महीने के दौरान संसद सदस्यों से कुल 689 पत्र/अभ्यावेदन/ज्ञापन प्राप्त हुए थे ।

(ख) और (ग) सभी पत्रों की प्राप्ति के पन्द्रह दिन के भीतर उनकी पावती भेजी गई । विभिन्न कार्यालयों अन्य मंत्रालयों, विभागों, संगठनों तथा राज्य सरकारों से अपेक्षित सूचना के अभाव में 200 पत्रों के मामले में अंतिम उत्तर नहीं भेजे गए हैं ।

(घ) प्रश्न नहीं होता ।

National Housing Bank for the NRI

*352. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Housing Bank has been charged with the responsibility of implementing NRI housing and real estate scheme;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether the National Housing Bank is equipped to handle this kind of responsibility; and

(d) what were the compulsions behind the need to concentrate on housing facilities for NRIs?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL): (a) The Government has approved a scheme to encourage and facilitate NRI investment in housing and real estate development and a Nodal Cell has been set up in the National Housing Bank for coordinating decisions on policies and procedures relating to NRI investment in housing and real estate development with representation of all concerned agencies.

(b) The broad details of the scheme are given in the statement (*See* below).